



Christ Reformed United Church of Christ Christ Church Children's Center

VISIONS

No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. Because Jesus has taught us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves we declare Christ Reformed UCC to be an Open and Affirming church. We invite people of every race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, marital status, economic circumstance, and physical and mental ability into the worship, rites & sacraments, fellowship, and leadership of our church.

Consistory Communication

The Consistory members would like to thank the congregation for the attendance at and participation in the informational meeting on October 1st. It is evident that, although we are experiencing a great deal of uncertainty and transition right now, this congregation is very much alive and looking to the future. Update on pulpit supply and pastoral care through December:

- ◆ Greg Shook will again be speaking on November 5th, 12th, and 19th. He has also expressed his willingness to help with pastoral care and visitation as needed during that time period. If you have or know of a need for pastoral care, please reach out to the church office at 301-371-6610 or to Laura Fontaine at 301-335-8058 so that we can make arrangements.
- ◆ Ed Higginbottom will be with us full-time beginning November 23rd through December 31st. Ed will hold office hours during the week and will fill the pulpit during the Advent season. More information about his office hours will be forthcoming. Please join us in expressing our gratitude for his service!

Consistory has met with Reverend Vertie Powers regarding possibilities for interim work after the first of the year. While Rev. Powers is unable to take on a full-time interim position, she does offer some suggestions for processing some of the trauma, transition, and uncertainty that we have been and are currently experiencing. She could dedicate a weekend each month for as long as we deem necessary to hold small group sessions (8-10 people/session, 2-3 hours/session) for discovery, visioning, processing on Saturday, then stay to preach for Sunday of that weekend. The other three weekends of each month would continue to be filled with church members or pulpit supply pastors. We have not made any decisions regarding moving forward with Rev. Powers, but wanted to present this option to you as a congregation to consider.

One of the requests from the congregation during the informational meeting in October was to have monthly congregational meetings to keep you informed of the work Consistory is doing. We will hold these meetings on the first Sunday of each month going forward during the Sunday School hour (starting at 9:15 a.m.). During the meeting on December 3, 2023, we would like to have your input regarding the possibility of hiring Rev. Powers on a consultant basis. Please plan to vote on that proposal during the December meeting.

Finally, it is time to begin assembling a search committee. If you feel called or would be willing to serve in this capacity, please contact Laura Fontaine at laura.s.fontaine@gmail.com or 301-335-8058. Our church profile was extensively updated after Mark Wakefield retired but will need to be reviewed and revised to suit our current situation. We have been made aware that the pool of ministers for the Catocin Association (both intentional interims and settled pastors) is very limited, so this may be a long process to find the right person. We would like to get this committee identified and their work started by the end of November.



Consistory Communication	1
Mulling the Message Would you be a Candle Lighter Gift Cards Church Fundraiser Christmas Poinsettias Remembrance Sunday Weekly Email Notes Small Nativity Sets Christmas Decorating A Time of Transition	2
Plan Your Calendar	3
Plan Your Calendar (cont) Community Outreach	4
Nominating Committee Info Poinsettia Order Form RaiseRight Gift Card Oder Form	Insert
Community Outreach (cont.) Around the Congregation	5
CCCC Highlights Thank You Note	6
September 2023 Financials	7
Stewardship Sunday	8

CONGREGATIONAL

MEETING &
BUDGET VOTE



Sunday, November 5th
@ 9:15am

**Join us in the Chapel as
we discuss and adopt our
2024 budget.**

Mulling the Message

Sunday's preacher has a big edge over you. He, or she, has spent hours reading, researching, musing and preparing a message based on a passage of scripture. Then like a waiter presenting a filet-mignon this "Specialty of the House" is served on a platter for you to chew on. Here's a thought! What if you had read the scripture the day before and formed some of your own questions and connections; wouldn't you then be better able to engage, digest and even challenge the preacher's dish? Let's give it a try. On Sunday November 26th the message will be drawn from Matthew 25:31-46 "The Parable of the Sheep and Goats" as told by Jesus in the Temple. Now mix that with J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series and you get a reflection titled **"The Sorting Hat"** Give it some thought. *Blessings, Rev. Dr. Ed Higginbottom.*

Would you be a Candle Lighter?

During the four Sundays of Advent that precede Christmas you will see a wreath with five candles displayed on a stand in the chancel. There will one pink and three purple candles around a larger, central, white candle that represents the birth and arrival of Jesus. Our tradition is that the four colored candles are lit at the opening of worship by one of our church families. As they light that week's a short dedication is shared on the theme of LOVE (12/3), HOPE (12/10), JOY (12/17) and PEACE (12/24). If you would like to celebrate Advent in this way please contact Debbie, our church secretary and advise her whether you will write your own dedication or have one provided.

Gift Cards Church Fundraiser

By purchasing gift cards through *RaiseRight*, one of our church fundraisers, the church receives a percentage of every gift card purchased. Use the enclosed Order form to purchase a wide selection of cards for your shopping convenience. Return the completed form to Gail Johnson or the church office with payment. Your cards will be delivered to the church the following week for you to pick up either on Sunday morning from Gail or during the week from the church office. Cash or check payments will need to be submitted to the church before the order can be finalized.

Christmas Poinsettias

Our sanctuary is always gorgeous at Christmas thanks to the generous donation of poinsettias by our members and friends. If you would like to donate a plant to decorate the sanctuary and receive the plant after the Christmas Eve Service, you can do so by using the enclosed order form or by contacting the church office. The poinsettias are provided by Dutch Plant Farm. The deadline to place your order is **Friday, December 2nd.**

Remembrance Sunday

All Saints Day is when, traditionally, people remember those who have gone before us into God's realm beyond our vision, and the place they still occupy in our hearts and minds. We will mark that on the first Sunday of November (**November 5th**), with Remembrance Sunday. During worship we will recall the names of members and friends of our church who died in the past year. We invite you to bring a picture of someone you want us to remember with you

that day—it doesn't matter how recently or long ago your person died. We will place the pictures on a table in front of the chancel to remind us to continue in and deepen our confidence in God's powerful presence in life and in death.

Weekly Email Notes

Debbie in the church office has begun sending out the weekly email notes. If you have not received the weekly email, please contact her in the church office.

Small Nativity Sets Wanted On-Loan for Advent

This Advent and Christmas we are once again looking for small nativity sets/scenes to feature in our sanctuary. If you have such a set or one-piece scene that you are willing to loan to the church between now and Christmas, we would be grateful! You can bring it with you to worship on Sunday or drop off to the church office during the week. Be sure to mark it with a tag or tape with your name. And, if there's a neat history or family story to the nativity, we'd love to know it so we can post that along with your name when it's on display in the sanctuary.

Christmas Decorating

If you are interested in helping to decorate the church for Christmas, please contact Gertie Mende at 301-639-2109 or cgmende@comcast.net to let her know your availability to help out either **Friday, 11/24 or Saturday, 11/25**. Once she has an idea of availability, she will confirm the date.

A Time of Transition

There is no question that times of transition, those uncharted paths between one relatively stable condition and the next, can be scary, uncomfortable and challenging. But they can also be valuable as periods in which to reflect, regroup and recommit. Our lives are full of more transitional times than perhaps we realize. Changes in our home life or work environment such as the birth of a child, the loss of a loved one, illness, marriage, divorce, job promotions or losses, road accidents all thrust us into adjustment mode. Somehow we cope by drawing on our inner strengths, the support of others and the grace of God. We are indeed transitional creatures. Our current situation of being "between settled pastors," like many of the transitions we encounter, could be considered to be a test of our mettle, our ability, our pluck. Do we have what it takes to get through this?

Absolutely. We are a vital, capable and enthusiastic congregation with enviable talent. The willingness to do a little extra to ensure that the missions of the church do not falter is evident every Sunday. Our staff members Debbie, Terry, Edgar and Mike are pitching in to cover all our administrative and worship expectations. The Called to Care, Discipleship and Parish Life teams are being diligent in their efforts to serve those in need within and outside our congregation. And yes our leaders on the Consistory are managing the next step process with the guidance of our Conference office. This is a time for all to be involved as they are able. The church is us. We are the hands and the voice of Christ. ~Rev. Dr. Ed Higginbottom



Ladies Chill Night

Ladies Chill night is on hiatus until after the holidays. They will resume gathering in January.

Guys Night Out



11/20 @ 6pm
Brewer's Alley

Join us for fellowship & food.
If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Bob Galey at
robertgaley@hotmail.com or text or call 301 712-8022.



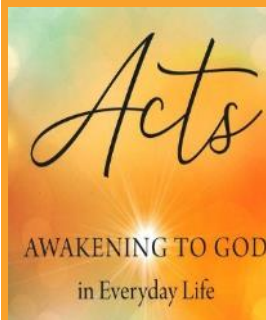
Wednesday 11/15 @6:30pm Main Cup

God on Tap is an opportunity for members and friends of CRUCC to gather to come to know each other and to wrestle with some of life's great (and small) questions.

.....on Tap!

For more information, please contact Christine at 97cfontaine@gmail.com.

Women's Study Group



*A Bible Study by
Melissa Spoelstra*

**Wednesdays
@ 7pm
via Zoom**

Books are available in the Narthex. Please contact the church office for the zoom link.

BINGO! Buds

LUNCH, BINGO & FELLOWSHIP

**November 9
Noon to 2pm
Coffee Hour Area**

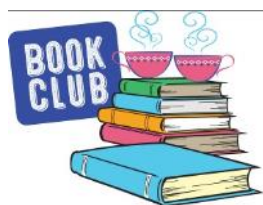
No need to sign up—Just show up!

Middletown United Methodist Church

THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY SERVICE



NOVEMBER 19 @ 7PM



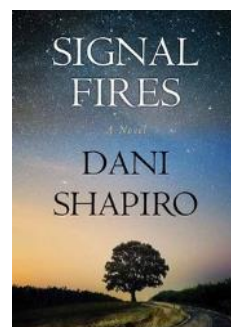
BOOK OF THE MONTH

Nov 28 @ Noon
Fratelli's

"Signal Fires"

by Jeannette Walls

"Beautifully written with captivating characters, this novel delves into the consequences of a long hidden lie and how a single event can alter many lives forever".



All are welcome!

Please contact Charlotte Hanson at hansonc3306@gmail.com for more info.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

Last Sunday of each month
during our 10:30 Service

Along with Children's Story, our youth will be included
in various portions of the worship service.

JOIN US IN DECEMBER FOR

Christ Reformed United Church of Christ



Opening & Affirming

SUNDAY

We will celebrate LGBTQA+
family & friends at both services.

Community Outreach



Through Middletown Valley People Helping People our congregation is invited to help provide Christmas gift

cards for families who are facing hard times. The Discipleship Board has placed a small Christmas tree in the back of the Narthex. On the tree are ornaments representing gift cards to Walmart, Amazon, Safeway, and Weis in amounts of \$20, \$25, and \$50. You are invited to take an ornament, purchase a gift card through the church's gift card program (see Gail Johnson) or through a retail outlet, and place the card in the offering plate or return it to the church office. If you are unable to join us in person, you can simply send a gift card(s) or check made out to CRUCC to the church office. Gift cards are due no later than Sunday, November 19th. If you have any questions please call the church office.

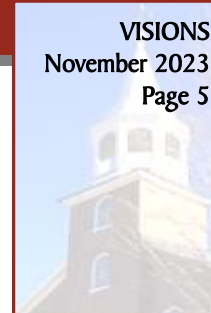
COMMUNITY TABLE



Sunday, December 3

We are in Need of:
SERVERS & DESSERTS

Please add your name to the sign up sheet in the Narthex if you are able to help out.



MIDDLETOWN FOOD

FOOD ITEMS

- Fresh Produce
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Tomato Products
- Soup
- Cereal
- Canned Veggies
- Condiments
- Pasta
- Oatmeal



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toilet Paper
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Bars of Soap
- Hand Lotion
- Facial Tissue
- Paper Towels



The mission of Heartly House is to end domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and child abuse, and to provide victims with safety, shelter, and supportive services.

- ♦ Toiletry Items
- ♦ Gift cards: Walmart, Giant, Weis, Safeway, Food Lion, Target, Sheetz, Shell, Giant Eagle, CVS, Walgreens, TJ Maxx, Marshalls, Wawa, Exxon, etc

Collection boxes are found in the hallway between the sanctuary and the chapel.
Gift cards for Heartly House can be dropped off to the church office.

Around the Congregation

ALTAR FLOWERS

November 5	Charlotte Hansen
November 12	Marty Estell
November 19	TBD
November 26	TBD

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

November 5	Consistory
November 12	Debbie & Mike Locke
November 19	Stewardship Committee
November 26	Property Board

SOUND TECHS

November 5	Nick Fink
November 12	Tony Verdi
November 19	Pat Joy
November 26	Tony Verdi

LAYREADERS

November 5	Wendy Campbell
November 12	Paul Fink
November 19	Andrew Corl
November 26	Gail Johnson

USHERS

November 5	Pat Joy, Be' Hill
November 12	Linda DeLauder, Bill Falconer
November 19	Be' Hill, Karen Koogle
November 26	Linda Nichols, Judy Zeck

Church Attendance

SEPTEMBER 2023

	8:15 am	10:30 am
September 3	21	51
September 10	17	55
September 17	19	55
September 24	24	50



Christmas Flowers

Use the enclosed order form to honor or remember special family members, friends or an event with potted plants which will decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve.

**Deadline to order is
December 4th**





CCCC has partnered with The Golden Gears, Mike Locke's car club, to collect new unwrapped toys for the Toys for Tots toy drive. If you would like to donate a new toy, please place it in the big box in the Narthex by Sunday, Nov. 19th.



Pre-K Class



CCCC Children



Organ Solo by Isaac

On October 29th, we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of our Children's Center. We had musical performances by the CCCC children, a special blessing for the teachers, organ solo from Isaac and Coffee Hour hosted by JJ & Jesi. Currently led by our director, Missy Payne, the staff of 21 teachers and aides support the educational needs of 100 children, Infant through 5th grade.



Teacher Blessing

CCCC
Celebration
Sunday



Coffee Hour

Thank You Notes

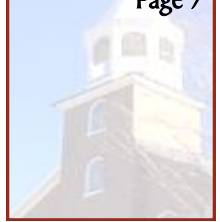
Church Friends:

Thank you so much for your many thoughts/prayers, notes/cards, and calls during my recent heart health issue. I am doing great.

~Sherry Hildebrand



Operating Finances Year to Date (Ending September 30, 2023)



CRUCC	Actual Sep 01, 2023 - Sep 30, 2023	Actual This Year to Date	Budget Remaining Year to Date
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 15,756.00	\$ 200,916.56	\$ 195,428.01
Investment Income	\$ (1,024.67)	\$ 14,284.31	\$ (14,284.31)
Other Income	\$ 4,115.28	\$ 36,303.79	\$ 24,691.21
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 18,846.61	\$ 251,504.66	\$ 205,834.91
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 14,940.94	\$ 167,707.68	\$ 101,730.89
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ 107.20	\$ (107.20)
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 398.94	\$ 4,711.76	\$ 4,788.24
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 27.95	\$ 523.91	\$ 3,976.09
Office & Supplies	\$ 1,149.34	\$ 15,647.60	\$ 9,303.40
Utilities	\$ 1,742.38	\$ 25,566.99	\$ 7,633.01
Building & Property	\$ 4,453.73	\$ 59,005.20	\$ 18,994.80
Equipment Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 957.00	\$ 1,543.00
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 7,772.34</i>	<i>\$ 106,519.66</i>	<i>\$ 46,131.34</i>
Ministry Expenses			
Ministry - Outreach	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 18,796.00	\$ 6,304.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$ 767.15	\$ 1,657.13	\$ 5,092.87
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 6,267.15</i>	<i>\$ 20,453.13</i>	<i>\$ 11,396.87</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 28,980.43	\$ 294,680.47	\$ 159,259.10
Net Total	\$ (10,133.82)	\$ (43,175.81)	\$ 46,575.81

CCCC	Actual Sep 01, 2023 - Sep 30, 2023	Actual This Year to Date	Budget Remaining Year to Date
Revenues			
Operating Income	\$ 74,459.00	\$ 667,524.50	\$ 295,430.26
Unrestricted Investment Income	\$ 6.84	\$ 1,008.46	\$ (1,008.46)
Other Income	\$ 128.00	\$ 6,183.56	\$ 3,016.44
Designated Income	\$ -	\$ 24.98	\$ (24.98)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 74,593.84	\$ 674,741.50	\$ 297,413.26
Expenses			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 57,595.73	\$ 523,207.40	\$ 261,547.36
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 6,418.86	\$ 50,464.61	\$ 21,535.39
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 284.64	\$ 1,292.43	\$ 1,707.57
Office & Supplies	\$ 2,098.36	\$ 20,275.21	\$ 12,924.79
Utilities	\$ -	\$ 2,670.28	\$ 329.72
Building & Property	\$ 3,935.00	\$ 42,707.95	\$ 29,992.05
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,675.40	\$ 1,824.60
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 12,886.86</i>	<i>\$ 119,085.88</i>	<i>\$ 68,314.12</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 70,482.59	\$ 642,293.28	\$ 329,861.48
Net Total	\$ 4,111.25	\$ 32,448.22	\$ (32,448.22)

*Christ Reformed
United Church of Christ*

In-Person Worship
8:15am Contemporary Worship

In Person & On-Line Worship
Traditional Worship 10:30am
Coffee Hour 11:30am

Church Office Hours
Mon-Fri 10am-3pm
301-371-6610
Fax: 301-371-6912

12 South Church Street
P.O. Box 333
Middletown, Maryland 21769
christreformeducc@comcast.net
www.crucc.org

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
PERMIT 2202
Frederick, Maryland 21701

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Christ Church Children's Center

Mrs. Missy Payne, Director
6 Weeks—5th Grade
Mon-Fri 6:30am – 6:00pm
301-371-0360
www.christchurchchildrenscenter.net

*Reaching out to help people to know
God through Jesus Christ.
Equipping people to love God through
the community of faith.
Sending people to serve God
throughout the world.*

NOVEMBER 19 8:15AM & 10:30AM

To help celebrate our church and dedicate the financial commitments of our members and friends to the church's work, we invite you to join us on Sunday, November 19th. Following the 10:30am service the Stewardship Committee will host Coffee Hour.



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

